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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/010,540	11/08/2001	HongQian Karen Lu	59.0049	2784

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BRIGITTE ECHOLS
SCHLUMBERGER WELLS SERVICES
200 GILLINGHAM LANE, MD-9
SUGAR LAND, TX 77478

EXAMINER

PALADINI, ALBERT WILLIAM

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2125

DATE MAILED: 02/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding:

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/010,540	LU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Albert W Paladini	2125	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/26/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Lines 1-3 on page 69 state "According to Figure 27, the method begins at step 2702. The method begins in step 2704 by loading data about the first surface feature from a database that is stored in the data storage system". The description does not explain where the data is loaded.

Appropriate correction and clarification are required.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. See MPEP § 2172.01.

Claim 1

Lines 5-6 recite, "loading data of the first surface feature from a database stored in the data storage system." The claim does not recite the element that the data is loaded onto. Although this is a method claim, it deals with the movement and processing of data between the elements recited in the preamble in lines 1-4, so that it is necessary to understand where the data moves in order to be processed as rejected in lines 5-14.

5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation of the "application screengraph" recited on line 9 in the claim.

6. Claims 38-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

7. Claim 38 recites the limitation "database" in line 39. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

8. Claim 51 recites the limitation "database" in line 36. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Appropriate correction and clarification are required.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 1, 38, and 51 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

10. Claims 2-37, 39-50, and 52-63 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

11. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

None of the references cited or the art searched disclose or teach alone or in combination the method for editing a model by creating an aggregate feature for the first surface feature, creating a first graphics object, and adding the first graphics object to the application scenegraph in conjunction and in the same relationship to the other steps recited in claim 1.

None of the references cite or the art searched disclose or teach alone or in combination the "geometry interface object" and the specific interrelationships between

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this and the other objects and parameters used to edit a database as recited in claims 38 and 51.

Relevant Prior Art

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Haratsch (6483513) discloses a process of defining animation parameters, which includes the definition of an object as a scenegraph and the definition of high-level animation parameters to allow rigid and flexible deformation.

Ross (6608628) discloses a method and apparatus for medical imaging where each object is embedded in a scenegraph, which is an organizational tree used to store all the properties of the object, such as geometric information about the object, spatial orientation, lighting conditions, colors, etc. Each scenegraph is analyzed as it is loaded, and all the variables and properties in the scenegraph (except the geometry itself) are created as shared variables and linked through the information server. Modification of any property due to scene manipulation is then automatically propagated to all the other clients, providing the collaborative aspect of the system.

Deutsch (6631403) discloses application programming interfaces which include one or more of an Application Manager API; a Scenegraph Manager API; a Resource Manager API; an Interactivity Manager API; a Media Decoders API; a Functionality API; a Networking API; and a Device API.

Deutsch (6751655) discloses a method and apparatus for transport of scenegraph information across a network. A server obtains a build object comprising a data structure and one or more methods configured to build a scenegraph from scenegraph information stored in the data structure. A spawning process on the server initializes the build object by writing scenegraph information of a desired scenegraph into the data structure of the build object. The initialized build object is then transmitted to the client and loaded. One or more methods of the build object are invoked at the client to generate the desired scenegraph from the information contained in the build object's data structure. The scenegraph building mechanisms are transparent to the client. Thus, the format by which the scenegraph is represented in the data structure of the build object and/or the build methods of the build object may vary among servers, or may vary for the same server over time, without requiring the client to be reprogrammed.

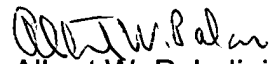
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13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be direct to Albert W. Paladini whose telephone number is (571) 272-3748. The examiner can normally be reached from 7:30 to 3:30 PM on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Leo P. Picard, can be reached on (571) 272-3749. The official fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

February 11, 2005


Albert W. Paladini
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2125